

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **23 February 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-27. Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-21, and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cone (USPN 5,915,119, hereinafter “Cone”). Claims 4-5, 13-14, and 22-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 were rejected as being anticipated by Cone.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 19 to include allowable limitations from dependent claims 3-4, 12-13, and 21-22, respectively. Dependent claims 3-4, 12-13, and 21-22 have been canceled without prejudice. Dependent claims 4, 14, and 23 have been amended to correct antecedent basis.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2 and 5-9, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11 and 14-18, which depend upon claim 10, and claims 20 and 23-27, which depend upon claim 19, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.



CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47,615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
2820 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616-7759
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665
Email: edward@parklegal.com